



# Department of Justice

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**DEFENDANT ANTONIO SMITH SENTENCED TO 646 MONTHS  
FOR CARJACKINGS AND FEDERAL FIREARMS OFFENSES**

**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTION**

MOBILE, Ala. - Antonio Smith, from Greenville, Alabama, was sentenced in federal court on June 12, 2006, to 646 months (over 53 years) in prison, following his November conviction on two counts of conspiracy to commit carjacking, two counts of carjacking and two counts of use of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. The sentence was imposed by Senior District Court Judge Charles R. Butler, Jr. In imposing the consecutive sentences provided for by statute on the firearms charges, as well as sentences for the conspiracy and carjacking convictions, Judge Butler referenced the heinous nature of Smith's crimes.

The evidence adduced at trial proved that Smith, and three coconspirators drove from Greenville to Camden, Alabama looking for Cedric Mendenhall in order to collect money owed for car rims. When they did not find Mendenhall at home, Smith and his cohorts abducted Mendenhall's mother and two males from the house, blindfolded them, put them in the trunk of one of the victim's car and kept driving in search of Mendenhall. They spotted Mendenhall's car at another house and decided to take it. When Mendenhall ran out to stop the theft, Smith and his accomplices pistol whipped Mendenhall and shot him in the foot as he ran back into the house. Smith and the others fled.

Smith drove the car with the three victims trapped in the trunk about 35 miles back to a wooded area in Greenville. Smith took the three victims out of the trunk, shot two of them in the head, and attempted to shot the third but missed. Smith left all three for dead. Amazingly, all three victims survived and after daylight ran 2-3 miles to a house and called police.

Deborah J. Rhodes, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, said, "Smith and his friends shot three people over car rims. Violent crimes like this one destroy the security of our community and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Smith's codefendants, also from Greenville, have already been sentenced and received up to 180 months in prison.

This case is part of the Project Safe Neighborhood/Alabama I.C.E. (Isolate the Criminal

Element) initiative, which is a continuing effort to reduce gun violence and make the community a safer place for all its citizens. The investigation of this case was a cooperative effort between federal, state and local law enforcement. The combined efforts of the Camden and Pine Hill Police Departments, the Alabama Bureau of Investigation and the FBI made possible the successful prosecution by Assistant United States Attorneys John Cherry and Vicki Davis of United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Alabama.